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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 29 November 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic and Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the joint statement by the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Mr. Milan Kučan, and the President of the Czech Republic, Mr. Vaclav Havel, on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Danilo TÜRK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
Slovenia to the United Nations

(Signed) Karel KOVANDA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Czech Republic to the
United Nations

ANNEX

Joint statement on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, issued at Ljubljana on 11 November 1993 by the President of the Czech Republic and the President of Slovenia

After thorough discussions we agreed that it is necessary to appeal once more, and a great deal more decisively, to the conscience of all who may be able to influence a solution to the senseless war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We appeal to all parties involved in the war, and especially to their political and military leaders, to respect human life and the human dignity of the people in this unhappy State and to guarantee, before the coming winter starts, safe routes for humanitarian aid so that it may reach places where people have sought refuge from the war. Similarly, we appeal to the people and humanitarian organizations of all countries to do all within their power to support humanitarian aid to the victims of this senseless conflict, to which no end is in sight.

Above all, we appeal to politicians throughout the world, and especially in Europe, not to remain silent in the face of the destruction of basic human and civil values, the values of civilization, which is taking place with impunity in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We very much appreciate the good will of all those who are trying to resolve the conflict, but we are sure that it is necessary to define afresh principles and approaches in discussions on the future of this State. All plans to date concerning its future have accepted the principle of an ethnically pure State, which is in conflict with the idea of the European Union and with the basic values inscribed in the Helsinki and Paris documents of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The ideal of a civil society, which is the foundation of that Union, as well as of the Europe of the future, is being most gravely trampled upon in the immediate vicinity of countries linked in the European Union.

Human dignity and peace are indivisible. The war in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a war in Europe and for Europe. If Europe loses the struggle for the civil principle while searching for a solution to the coexistence of people and nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the loss will be its own.